

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 AID-20 PC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3567

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4338

TAGS: PFOR, BL

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF ATTEMPTED MILITARY COUP INDICATES  
PROBABILITY OF CHANGES IN CABINET.

REF: EMBASSY'S A-128 OF JULY 1, 1974 AND IR 6 808 0166 74  
OF JULY 3, 1974

1. TWO MINIFESTOS FROM SOME OF THE LEADERS OF THE JUNIOR  
OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE JUNE 5 COUP ATTEMPT, PLUS REBUTTALS  
FROM THE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND AND THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR,  
A PRESS INTERVIEW BY THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE,  
COLONEL AYOROA, WHO WAS THE INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE INSURGENTS  
AND THE TOP BRASS, AND THE REPORTING OF STATEMENTS OF  
UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT RECEIVED BY BANZER DURING HIS  
PULSE-TAKING TRIP TO MILITARY UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,  
HAVE KEPT THE ISSUE OF MILITARY DISUNITY BEFORE THE PUBLIC  
DURING THE PAST MONTH.

2. ON BALANCE, WE CONCLUDE THAT THE HIGH COMMAND RATHER THAN  
THE JUNIOR OFFICERS HAVE COME OFF SECOND BEST IN THE EYES  
OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND IN THE EYES OF THE MILITARY  
ESTABLISHMENT. THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE DAYS OF  
GENERALALCOREZA AS COMMANDER OF THE ARMY ARE NUMBERED.  
AS A FACE SAVING DEVICE, HE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE RELIEVED  
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UNTIL THE ANTICIPATED CABINET SHUFFLE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 6,

BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH  
COMMAND WILL STAY IN OFFICE BEYOND THAT DATE.

3. GENERAL JUAN LECHIN SUAREZ, A SENIOR AND RESPECTED  
RETIRED MILITARY FIGURE MAY BE ABLE TO BRIDGE THE GENERATION  
GAP AND HELP TO UNITE THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY. THERE IS A  
JANUARY 1971 REPORT ON LECHIN IN THE BIOGRAPHIC HANDBOOK.  
WHETHER HE GETS A CABINET POSITION OR NOT, IT IS OF INTEREST  
THAT HE WAS CALLED BY BANZER TO ACCOMPANY THE LATTER ON  
HIS TOUR LAST WEEK OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE  
BENI REGION; OF INTEREST BECAUSE LECHIN IS ALLEGED TO FAVOR  
AN ALL MILITARY CABINET, AND SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD IN  
PART MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE YOUNGER OFFICERS.

4. ADDED PRESSURES FOR A DISSOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING  
COALITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES (THE FPN) COME FROM THE  
FSB AND THE ARRELLANO WING OF THE MNR (SEE DISCUSSION  
REFAIR). ON BALANCE, IT APPEARS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT  
SOME FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT  
WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, POSSIBLY  
ALONG THE LINES OF A MILITARY CABINET WITH SUB-SECRETARY  
POSITIONS REMAINING IN THE HANDS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES  
NOW CONTROLLING THE RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES. WHATEVER THE  
NEW LOOK MAY BE, WE EXPECT THAT IN SOME DEGREE IT WILL  
REFLECT A COMPROMISE AIMED AT RE-UNITING THE ARMED FORCES  
AND MAINTAINING THE CURRENT PHILOSOPHICAL OUTLOOK OF  
THE GOB.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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